

#### REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Without acceding to the rejection, Claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer in favor of new Claims 7-23 (Claims 7, 11, and 17 independent). As such, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Laine and Farazmandnia is moot.

The Laine and Farazmandnia references are not seen to teach or suggest all of the features of Claims 7, 11, and 17, respectively.

In particular, note that Claim 7 recites the timeout interrupt signal being provided to the central processing unit when the data from the outside of the serial communication device is stopped for a certain time. Also note that Claim 11 recites a timeout interrupt signal generation section for providing a timeout interrupt signal to the central processing unit according to a timeout setting value for a period until the timeout interrupt signal is generated. Claim 17 similarly recites a timeout interrupt signal generation section for providing a timeout interrupt signal to the central processing unit according to a timeout value for a time period until the timeout interrupt signal is generated.

Laine is not seen to teach or suggest the foregoing features of Claims 7, 11, and 17. As to Farazmandnia, Applicants respectfully observe that Farazmandnia's timer 210 sends a "flush" signal to DMA controller 206 periodically for confirming the asynchronous data in DMA FIFO 204. See Farazmandnia, col. 3, lines 17-62. That is, Applicants respectfully observe that Farazmandnia's timer 210 is for polling of DMA controller 206. This should be contrasted with Applicants' invention which provides for a timeout interrupt signal as noted above.

Accordingly, the newly presented claims distinguish patentably from the aforementioned applied references.

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (XA-10061) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /Patrick L. Miller/  
Mitchell W. Shapiro  
Reg. No. 31,568

Miles & Stockbridge, P.C.  
1751 Pinnacle Drive  
Suite 500  
McLean, Virginia 22102-3833  
(703) 610-8651

Patrick L. Miller  
Reg. No. 57,502

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